

Mission San Buenaventura  
Ventura, Ventura County  
California

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of California #3.

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Henry F. Withey, District Officer  
407 So. Western Avenue  
Los Angeles, California

MISSION SAN BUENAVENTURA  
(Ventura Mission)  
Founded 1782.  
Ventura, Ventura County, California.

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Owner: Roman Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Los Angeles,  
714 West Olympic Blvd; Los Angeles

Date of erection: The present church was started in 1801 and  
completed in 1809.

Architect:

Builder: Indian labor under direction of the Padres.

Present condition: The church is the only part remaining  
of the early construction. In its repaired and altered  
condition it is well preserved. A slight earthquake in  
1906 weakened the tower and shortly after, structural steel  
angles and rods were placed about the belfry to strengthen  
the masonry and save it from further damage. Original Sacristy  
and other adjoining mission buildings were removed in 1887 and  
1888. Father Juan Comopla, resident priest 1861-1878 had a  
wood ceiling placed in the structure, and the tile floor  
covered with wood flooring. The wood flooring has since been  
removed from the aisles. Rev. Caprion Rubio in charge 1878-  
1895 had the windows lengthened, stained glass installed,  
early interior decorations removed and the walls newly  
painted and stenciled. Present Sacristy has been added in  
recent years as also the museum in 1929. Present living  
quarters, Parochial School and living quarters of the Sisters  
were erected in 1922.

Number of stories: one, with choir loft.

Materials of construction: Foundations of stone, tower of  
brick with stone buttresses of stone, front wall of brick,  
side and rear walls of sun dried adobe brick, new buttresses  
on west side of concrete. Adobe walls have at times been  
repaired with brick and stone. Heavy wood beams, possibly  
10" or 12" square span the nave of the church. Over these  
were laid a wood ceiling of wide boards, hand hewn, one to  
two inches thick. This original beamed ceiling was covered  
some time between 1861 and 1878 as noted above with pine or  
redwood matched board and beaded ceiling and painted. Pres-  
ent roof framing is new, placed within the last few years, and  
tile covered.

Other existing records: H. H. Bancroft, "History of Calif-  
ornia", Fr. Zephyrin Engelhardt, "The Mission of San Buena-  
ventura"; Rexford Newcomb, 1925; "The Old Mission Churches  
and Historic Houses of California".

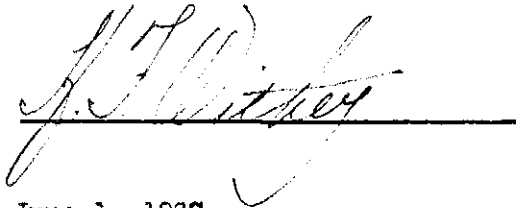
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Additional Data: This was the ninth mission in the chain of 21 founded in California between 1769 and 1823. The church tower and front wall was partly destroyed in the earth quake of 1812. They were immediately rebuilt and buttresses added as noted above.

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. F. Withey", is written over a horizontal line.

June 1, 1937

- RE 7/2/37